

## CLAIMS

1. In a computer system having a display, a method for playing media files,  
including providing a blackspace timeline, dragging a media object to the timeline,  
5 and playing the media.

2. The method of claim 1, further including providing a play cursor on the  
time line, and clicking and dragging on the play cursor in a first direction to play  
the media and set the playback speed.  
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3. The method of claim 2, further including clicking and dragging on the  
play cursor in a second direction opposite the first direction to play the media  
backwards.

15 4. The method of claim 1, further including the step of clicking on the time  
line to create a play cursor at the click point.

5. The method of claim 1, further including gridlines spaced along said time  
line to demarcate units of a parameter.  
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6. The method of claim 5, wherein said parameter units represent time.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein said parameter units represent onscreen  
distance and length.

8. The method of claim 5, further including the step of clicking and dragging on said gridlines to rescale said timeline.

5           9. The method of claim 5, wherein said gridlines include scale lines at regular intervals among said gridlines.

10           10. The method of claim 9, further including providing alphanumeric labels for said scale lines.

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11. In a computer system having a display, a method for playing media files, including providing a play rectangle, said play rectangle having a continuous rectangular perimeter formed as a continuous time line, and dragging a media object to the play rectangle, and playing the media.

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12. The method of claim 11, further including providing a play cursor on the time line, and clicking and dragging on the play cursor in a first direction to play the media and set the playback speed.

20           13. The method of claim 12, further including clicking and dragging on the play cursor in a second direction opposite the first direction to play the media backwards.

14. The method of claim 11, further including the step of clicking on the time line to create a play cursor at the click point.

15. The method of claim 11, further including gridlines spaced along said  
5 time line to demarcate units of a parameter.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein said parameter units represent time.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein said parameter units represent  
10 onscreen distance and length.

18. The method of claim 15, further including the step of clicking and dragging on said gridlines to rescale said timeline.

15 19. The method of claim 15, wherein said gridlines include scale lines at regular intervals among said gridlines.

20. The method of claim 19, further including providing alphanumeric labels for said scale lines.

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